

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-16

WASHINGTON POST
16 FEBRUARY 1983

France Had Data On Barbie in '63, Document Shows

By Paul Webster
Manchester Guardian

PARIS, Feb. 15—A document published today showed that France was officially informed in 1963 that Klaus Barbie had taken refuge in Bolivia and was probably working for both American and West German secret services.

The document was released by anti-Nazi lawyer Serge Klarsfeld, whose wife, Beate, tracked down Barbie in La Paz in 1972, when the French authorities said they did not know where the former Lyons Gestapo chief was living.

Klarsfeld said he was "profoundly hurt to find that France had known officially since 1963" where Barbie was hiding out, but nothing was done about asking for his extradition until the Klarsfeld group of Nazi hunters went into action in 1971. During that period, the French presidents were Charles de Gaulle and Georges Pompidou.

The full text of the "secret and confidential" document was published in the daily Le Monde. A letter dated November 1963 from the French military intelligence in West Germany reported that the West German authorities had begun an inquiry into Barbie's activities in Lyons.

The document said: "After the German surrender of 1945, Barbie was immediately used by the American secret services Since 1961 or 1962, Barbie lives in Bolivia at La Paz. He is reported to have a 'cover occupation' for the American CIA and German BND secret services."

Klarsfeld also released several documents connected with French attempts to force the Americans to hand over Barbie during the period between 1945 and 1951, while he was working as an intelligence officer for them in West Germany.